

D 9503 (e)

CONFIDENTIAL

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE

File No. S. B. D. 9503 (C)

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE

S.1, Special Branch, 15, 39

REPORT

Date August 15, 1939.

Subject Jack Edward IVERS

Made by D.P.S. Killingbeck

Forwarded by C. Crawford, D.I.

Jack Edward IVERS was born in St. Armand, Victoria, Australia, on November 9, 1905. He arrived in Shanghai about September 1926 from Sydney, and soon earned for himself the reputation of being an absolute waster. He was also suspected of being a "pimp." He did not obtain any regular employment, and in March 1927, applied at the local office of the United Services Association for assistance. Arrangements were made to send him back to Australia, and a passage was booked for him, to Hongkong on the s.s. "Rawalpindi." However, he failed to embark when the vessel sailed.

IVERS later became associated with a Russian prostitute named Mrs. Pelagine L. KOVENKO, of 2 Fearon Road. He cohabited with her for some time, and on August 4, 1927, had an argument with this woman. Four French soldiers or marines interfered, and IVERS was evicted from the premises. He waited until the four service men left the building, and a fight took place in the road. One of the men drew a pistol and fired a shot, whereupon they all decamped.

After this incident, IVERS had no fixed abode, and existed on monies fraudulently received. On September 14, 1927, he was arrested on a British Supreme Court warrant and subsequently charged with five cases of obtaining money by fraud and false pretences. He was found guilty on all charges,

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and was sentenced to be kept in custody until such time as arrangements could be made by the Shipping Vice Consul for him to be sent back to Australia. At 9 a.m. on September 23, 1927, IVERS was put on board a vessel bound for Australia.

He did not remain away from Shanghai for any lengthy period, however, for on January 26, 1928 he was arrested on North Szechuen Road for carrying unlicensed firearms. He appeared before the British Court on January 27, 1928, and was sentenced to one month's imprisonment with hard labour, the pistol and ammunition found in his possession to be confiscated by the S.M.P.

Upon his release from prison, IVERS again became associated with Mrs. Pelaginé L. KOVENKO, and as he was unemployed, he lived on money supplied to him by her.

Mrs. KOVENKO at that time was an inmate of a brothel at 2 Fearon Road. In October 1927, she became one of the licensees of the premises but did not change her mode of living. She was trying to marry IVERS, hoping that by doing so she would be able to enter Australia with him. She no doubt anticipated enquiries being made about her, and changed her address to a boarding house at 3 Astor Terrace. She informed the proprietrix that she was employed by the Simplex Utility Bureau, 982 Broadway, but enquiries elicited that she had only rewritten

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some letters in Russian for which she was paid at the rate of 50 cents per page. This employment was no doubt arranged between herself and the management of the firm, in order to help cover her past activities.

During June, 1928, IVERS and Mrs. Pelagine L. KOVENKO made application to marry, at H.B.M. Consulate General in Shanghai and went through a form of marriage some time later.

IVERS obtained one or two minor jobs, but again applied to the United Services Association for assistance. He was sent to the "Crystal Hotel," 37 Seward Road, where he resided for a period at the expense of the Association.

In September, 1928, IVERS, who had recently registered himself at H.B.M. Consulate General in Shanghai, applied there for a passport for himself and wife. A report of the characters and activities of IVERS and his wife was sent to H.B.M. Consulate General by the S.M.P. and on the strength of this report a passport was refused Mrs. IVERS. IVERS obtained Shanghai Passport No.5293 on September 24, 1928, with a paragraph inserted by the Acting Consul General that it should not be made valid for the British Empire. As IVERS is an Australian by birth, his passport was consequently made valid for travel to Australia. Despatch No.193, suggesting that IVERS and his wife be placed on the Suspect Index, and so be

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stopped from entering the British Empire was forwarded to H.M. Minister in Peking, by H.B.M. Consulate-General in Shanghai, on September 26, 1928. Before this circular had time to take effect, IVERS applied for a passport for himself and his wife at Mukden and Harbin and was granted Passport 5293 at Harbin on October 12, 1928 for himself and his wife. IVERS returned to Shanghai after this and it is believed his wife later returned to the U.S.S.R.

IVERS' movements after 1928 are not known, except that he was seen on a few occasions in Shanghai during the early part of 1929. All efforts to trace him at that time proved futile, and it was surmised that he left Shanghai.

On June 19, 1933, he re-appeared in Shanghai, when he successfully applied for a position on the Chinese Maritime Customs, Shanghai. He gave his home address at the time as 500 Alexander Street, Vancouver. He was discharged on August 13, 1934 for being absent from his ship, but enquiries show that the reason for his absence was drunkenness.

In 1934, evidence was produced in Shanghai that, at the time that Mrs. Pelagine L. KOVENKO went through a form of marriage with IVERS, she actually had a previous husband living, thus making her marriage with IVERS bigamous. On the strength of this, the British Authorities in Shanghai considered the marriage nullified, and Mrs. KOVENKO immediately lost her

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British nationality and any rights and privileges she may have enjoyed as the wife of a British Subject. During August 1934, IVERS applied to the Salvation Army in Shanghai for assistance, stating that he had been discharged from the Customs for excessive drinking. He received assistance from the Salvation Army authorities, and in September 1934, obtained employment with Messrs. Mollers Ltd. He left their employ in May 1935, with a good character.

His movements for the next year or two are rather obscure, until July 13, 1937, when he obtained a position as a Second Officer with Messrs. Butterfield & Swire Ltd. He proved a very efficient officer but was addicted to alcohol and was discharged for excessive drinking on July 5, 1938. He was next employed by Messrs. Jardine Matheson's, but after a few months was discharged for drunkenness during November 1938.

He again applied to the Salvation Army for assistance during February 1939. Major C.K. HEGLEY, of the Salvation Army was prepared to grant certain temporary relief measures, but IVERS objected to the Major's proposals, and left the office in a bad temper. No relief was granted on that occasion.

On April 6, 1939, he was re-engaged by Messrs. Butterfield & Swire, but on May 19 left his ship in Shanghai, whereupon his service with the firm was terminated.

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People for whom IVERS has worked are unanimous in describing him as a very good man at his trade. His main faults are his excessive drinking and unpleasant disposition. It is said of him that, when he cannot see eye to eye with his employers, he becomes very objectionable, and either resigns, or is discharged from his position.

It is believed that he has obtained further assistance from the United Services Association.

IVERS is at present believed to be residing at Lane 312, House 7, Nanzing Road.

J. D. Killingbeck

D.P.S.

D.C. (Special Branch).

*Inquiry made at request
of Australian Trade Commr.
Copy of report sent to him 15.6.39*

JR